

Youth Substance Abuse Treatment Programs

The Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) offers services throughout Massachusetts for youth with substance abuse issues. In addition to community-based outpatient assessment and counseling, comprehensive alcohol and other drug residential treatment services are provided for youth through Youth Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Programs and Two Recovery Homes For Youth.

Eligibility Criteria for Residential Treatment

- Residential Substance Abuse Treatment is appropriate for high-risk youth experiencing health, emotional / behavioral, family, developmental and/or social dysfunction as a result of alcohol and other drug use, and whose issues have not been resolved in less intense, community-based levels of care.
- Eligible youth meet the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV) criteria and meet the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) for Adolescent Residential Treatment Service as relevant to the program model.

Screening and Assessment

- High-risk behavior is identified by a community provider to determine which teens require a more comprehensive evaluation. The community provider will screen adolescents, preferably by administering the CRAFFT tool, a substance abuse screening instrument specifically for adolescents, developed by John Knight at Children's Hospital, recommended by the Center For Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) as a best practice model and endorsed by BSAS.
- A CRAFFT screen warranting a referral to a BSAS-approved outpatient adolescent services provider for a full substance abuse bio-psychosocial assessment. BSAS endorses and is committed to building capacity of the Global Appraisal of Individual Needs (GAIN), an assessment tool for adolescents recommended by CSAT as a best practice model. GAIN includes a series of standardized instruments designed to integrate the assessment for both clinical (e.g. diagnosis, bio-psycho-social assessment, placement, and treatment planning) and program evaluation (needs assessment, clustering, fidelity, outcomes, and benefit cost) purposes.
- Youth that exhibit high-risk behavior in school, at home, or in court may be referred directly to an approved outpatient adolescent services provider for a full substance abuse assessment. **The Massachusetts Substance Abuse Information and Education Helpline (800-327-5050) can provide information on approved adolescent outpatient programs and answer questions about the referral process.**
- If the assessment indicates a need for residential substance abuse treatment, the completed assessment should be faxed to the Central Intake Coordinator (CIC). The CIC review all referrals from approved outpatient providers for completion and coordinates admission to the appropriate residential program. If it is appropriate to refer the youth to an alternative program, the CIC will offer suggestions.
- **The CIC are at the Institute For Health and Recovery, phone number (617) 661-3991, toll free number (866) 705-2807, e-mail at maggiegiles@healthrecovery.org. The mailing address is 349 Broadway Cambridge MA 02139.**
- The CIC will coordinate all referrals to Youth Residential Substance Abuse Treatment including referrals from DSS, DYS, and the juvenile courts.

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Capacity

- Currently the operating capacity is for seven gender specific residential programs (four male and three female), each programs has fifteen (15) beds that funded by DPH. These are short-term substance abuse treatment services for medically stable youth ages 13-17. Each program has beds that are DPH funded only.

Program Description

- The BSAS-funded Youth Residential Substance Abuse Treatment programs offer a comprehensive, integrated approach. Qualified staff creates an individualized treatment plan for each adolescent. Professional staff include a Program Director, Clinical Director, Recovery Specialists (Counselor / Case Manager), After-Care Coordinator, Group, Individual and Family Therapists, and on-call Psychiatrist and Nurse.
- Each youth participates in highly structured, developmentally appropriate individual, group and family clinical services in addition to having his or her medical and psychiatric needs addressed. An in-house Educational Coordinator coordinates educational objectives with the child's school from his/her community.
- Youth treatment services are gender and culturally specific, ADA compliant and offered separately from adult treatment services. Relapses are addressed clinically in accordance with program policies. Programs are equipped to work with youth engaged in opioid addiction treatment. Girls who are pregnant are eligible for services in accordance with program policies.
- After care services include relapse prevention education, follow-up plans and integration to community resources and/or outpatient programs.
- Every effort is made to see that youth are served within their communities, as appropriate. However, programs will accept youth from across the state and will coordinate and provide transportation as needed for youth coming into their programs.
- There is a statewide standard client fee policy.

More Information

- If a member of the community wishes to refer a youth for residential treatment they should contact an approved adolescent outpatient program for a clinical assessment. The Massachusetts Substance Abuse Information and Education Helpline (800-327-5050) can provide information on approved adolescent outpatient programs and answer questions about the referral process.